

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A security system for a modular system for a vehicle, comprising:
2 at least one elongated member configured for attachment to an interior portion
3 of the vehicle;
4 at least one module configured for attachment to the elongated member;
5 a module interface unit communicating with the elongated member;
6 an identification unit coupled to the module and configured to interface with
7 the module interface unit;
8 so that the module interface unit is operable to authenticate the module when
9 the module is mounted on the elongated member.

1 2. The security system of Claim 1 wherein the module interface unit is
2 coupled to the elongated member.

1 3. The security system of Claim 1 wherein the module interface unit is
2 configured to provide electrical power to the module when the module is
3 authenticated.

1 4. The security system of Claim 1 wherein the module interface unit is
2 configured to provide at least one communication signal to the module when the
3 module is authenticated.

1 5. The security system of Claim 1 wherein the module interface unit
2 comprises a first identifier representative of the vehicle.

1 6. The security system of Claim 5 wherein the identification unit
2 comprises a second identifier representative of the vehicle.

1 7. The security system of Claim 6 wherein the module is authenticated
2 when the first identifier representative of the vehicle corresponds to the second
3 identifier representative of the vehicle.

1 8. The security system of Claim 1 wherein the module further comprises a
2 power source configured to activate the identification unit.

3 9. The security system of Claim 1 further comprising a user authentication
4 device.

1 10. The security system of Claim 9 wherein the user identification device is
2 configured to provide a signal representative of an identifier of the vehicle to the
3 module.

1 11. The security system of Claim 10 wherein the user identification device
2 is a key fob.

1 12. The security system of Claim 10 wherein the user identification device
2 is configured to communicate with the module by one or more of an infrared signal, a
3 radio frequency signal and a contact interface.

1 13. The security system of Claim 1 further comprising a vehicle supply
2 source configured to provide electrical power and a communication signal to the
3 module interface unit.

1 14. The security system of Claim 1 wherein the module is configured for
2 removable attachment to the elongated member.

1 15. The security system of Claim 1 wherein the elongated member is
2 mounted on an overhead portion of the interior portion of the vehicle.

1 16. A security system for a module adapted for use with a modular system
2 for a vehicle, comprising:
3 at least one elongated member configured for attachment to an interior portion
4 of the vehicle and configured to receive the module;
5 a module interface unit communicating with the elongated member;
6 an identification unit coupled to the module and configured to interface with
7 the module interface unit; and
8 a locking device provided on the module and operable to engage the
9 elongated member in a locked position and a released position.

1 17. The security system of Claim 16 wherein the module interface unit
2 comprises information representative of a first vehicle identifier.

1 18. The security system of Claim 17 wherein the identification unit
2 comprises information representative of a second vehicle identifier.

1 19. The security system of Claim 18 wherein the locking device is
2 configured to actuate to the locked position when the module is mounted on the
3 elongated member and the first vehicle identifier matches the second vehicle
4 identifier.

1 20. The security system of Claim 18 further comprising a user
2 authentication device having information representative of a third vehicle identifier
3 and configured to communicate with the module.

1 21. The security system of Claim 20 wherein the locking device is
2 configured to actuate to the released position when the module receives a signal
3 representative of the third vehicle identifier that matches the signal representative of
4 the second vehicle identifier.

1 22. A modular system for a vehicle, comprising:
2 at least one elongated member configured for installation on an interior
3 surface of the vehicle;
4 a module configured to couple to the elongated member;
5 a vehicle supply source configured to provide at least one of an electrical
6 power supply and a communication signal for use by the module;
7 a module interface unit configured to interface with the vehicle supply source
8 and the module;
9 an identification unit coupled to the module and configured to authenticate the
10 module for use in the vehicle so that the module interface unit is enabled to provide
11 at least one of an electrical power supply and a communication signal to the module.

1 23. The modular system of Claim 22 wherein the module interface unit is
2 encoded with a first vehicle identifier.

1 24. The modular system of Claim 23 wherein the identification is encoded
2 with a second vehicle identifier.

1 25. The modular system of Claim 23 wherein the module is authenticated
2 for use with the vehicle only when a corresponding relationship is established
3 between the first vehicle identifier and the second vehicle identifier.

1 26. The modular system of Claim 22 further comprising a user
2 authentication device configured to interface with the identification unit.

1 27. The modular system of Claim 22 wherein the module further comprises
2 a locking device operable to engage the elongated member if the module is
3 authenticated for use with the vehicle.

1 28. The modular system of Claim 26 wherein the locking device is operable
2 to disengage the elongated member when an authenticated signal is provided by a
3 user authentication device.